

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

On Saturday, June 16th we had a successful yard sale at Tom, N4KG's home. I would like to thank all those that came to help and was pleased that most also took home a piece of equipment or antenna from his collection. It was nice to see that much of his collection will be reused. I was surprised we had to take down another tower, below. I still can't believe the tree surgeon left it in a condition that was very unsafe tilting with all



but 1 guy wire loose. I was also amazed to see the size of the antenna that was put up on a TV tower that was rusted. Ruth was very pleased that we got the tower down and the back porch cleared off. I bet no one went out the back door in the last 20 years.



I have checked out the 2 DX Engineering receive antennas. I had heard that they had

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Viewers' Choice

July Program to be Determined by Acclamation

That's right, you get to determine the July Program—either "WRTC 2014 Video Recap" (60 mins) or "3Y0Z Bouvet Dxpediton" (36 mins). As for June we'll start the business meeting at 6:45. The NADXC Committee for Post-Meeting Dryness is working with the National Weather Service in an attempt to avoid a replay of the deluge that greeted us at the conclusion of our last meeting.



lightning damage and they did. It is unfortunate that DX Engineering does not provide schematics which makes repair more difficult. They want to do all the repairs because they said checkout and alignment requires special test equipment. It is fortunate with lightning you get to see the worst components that fail like the capacitors in the picture. Notice that C3 and C4 have a piece of it missing and C5 was blown up



and gone. These boxes have numerous shorted MOVs and capacitors that look ok. Most people don't try to fix lightning damaged equipment because they are more prone to other failures later due to wounded but not dead parts. Bob, K8KI and I have repaired equipment like this before. I am fortunate that most of the parts are simple and can be reverse engineered. I am still trying to determine if repair is worth the effort.

If anyone has purchased equipment from Tom's estate that turned out to be non-repairable or to expensive to repair please let me know and I will make an adjustment to the sales price. Many of the items were priced as nonfunctional units, but some may turn out to be worthless after detailed inspection.

That QRP Labs 5 watt transceiver that I built has an amazing receiver. My 3rd contact was with VE3BXG, Even the code reader works well. I used the straight key switch on the board for the initial contacts. I have still not been able to get the output to operate class E. Ninety percent efficiency is tough to accomplish.



The guys at DX Engineering did give my XYL a great gift idea for our anniversary. They suggested a deluxe foot switch. Most foot switches are way too light weight, move and can't handle the abuse of thousands of contacts. This one is all metal and looks like a winner. I will break it in during the upcoming Baker Island DXpedition.



I hope you didn't miss the KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition because the last one was in 2002. Our club was a sponsor of this #5 most wanted DXpedition. Some contacts were difficult with this DXpedition. Propagation has not been good on the high bands until late in the evening. We have had no sun spots in the last 7 days. I was surprised at the 12M, 15M and 17M opening at 8

-10PM in the evening. They also did not work the US during some of the good potential openings. Tom, N4KG use to send the pilots an email to offer suggestions. I decided send one to the pilot concerning their focus on JAs at our sunrise since Tom was no longer able to do it. I did miss Tom on the repeater during this expedition. I was glad I could help some others with spots. The FT8 Hound mode was not an easy one for me to get working right. The DXpedition said that half the callers were not using the right rev of the software or were not doing it right. I missed several openings before I got it to work right. I can see quite a few of the stations are getting this ironed out. It will be much better for the next DXpedition. I was very happy to get them on 8 bands and 3 modes. My prize contact was the 12M FT8 contact at 9:46PM local time.

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NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Steve Werner, AG4W
Vice President	Rob Suggs, KB5EZ
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

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Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Steve Werner, AG4W, From the President

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DX Contests for July

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

IARU HF World Championships (SSB/CW), 160 - 10M

July 14, 1200Z to July 15, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone; IARU HQ stns send HQ abbrev.

See page 83, July QST and <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

DMC RTTY Contest (RTTY), 80 - 10M

July 21, 1200Z to July 22, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus S.N.

See page 83, July QST and www.digital-modes-club.org

RSGB IOTA Contest (CW/SSB), 80 - 10M

July 28, 1200Z, to July 29, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T), S. N., & IOTA# if island

See page 83, July QST and www.rsgbcc.org

European HF Championship (CW/SSB), 160-10M

August 4, 1200Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus year first licensed

See: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfcrules.htm>

WAE DX Contest, (CW), 80 - 10M

August 11 0000Z, to Aug. 12, 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #

See: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/>

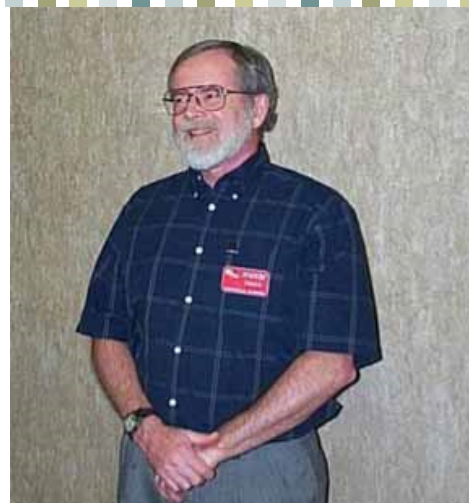
OTHERS:

Run for the Bacon Contest

0100Z-0300Z, July 16

RSGB Low Power Contest

0900 - 1600, July 22



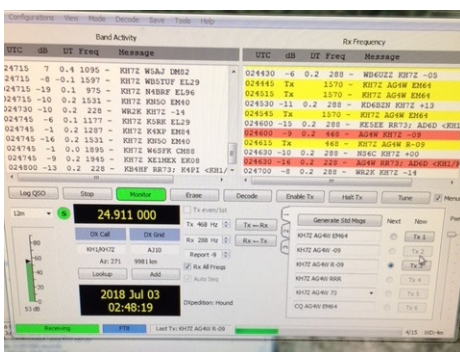
Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals. Beware.

Chuck, N4NM

From the President

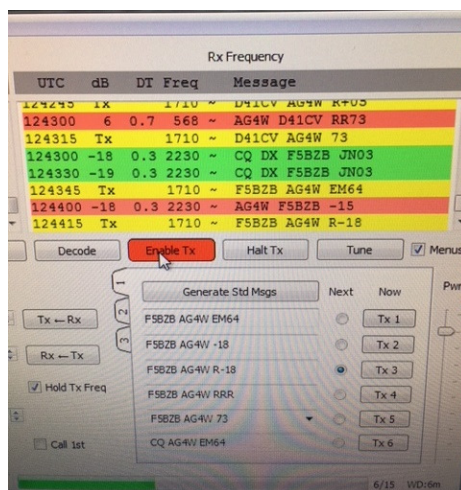
(cont'd from p. 2)

My 15M FT8 contact was 10 minutes earlier. I find that propagation hard to explain. Only 1.4 percent of their contacts were made on RTTY and 23.7 percent were made on FT8. It is clear to me that the future for FT8 is looking good. My favorite mode of RTTY may be headed out to pasture.



On June 24th we had a great European opening on 6 Meters. FT8 sure is great for E skip openings. From 12:15 - 13:30 UTC I worked 10 stations in Eu-

rope. D4 and ISO were new for me. FT8 has also been good to increase my VUCC count.



I hope all those that participated in Field Day had a great time. I got a stomach bug that was particularly bad right before field day and could not participate.

I am looking forward to the club meeting. We have two good videos to choose from this month, Bouvet and WRTC.

73 Steve AG4W

[Editor's Note: In view of the free advertising afforded to DX Engineering earlier in this article with the picture of their footswitch, the LongPath management feels it is appropriate to show a less expensive but entirely functional foot switch. The contacts, not shown, are appropriate for cathode keying any legal limit amp with a minimum of smoke. As shown the switch is configured for the left foot.]



June Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ-N4DXC Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance

Members 22 & guests 3

Review of Sign-in Sheet & DX worked

Ralph K4KOB	YB8OUN 20m PSK31 INDONESIA
Bob KC4TNC	B.C. on 6m
Jim K4KH	6m
Bruce AC4G	6 m—F6HKA, GCOC- CE, "G", "D62"/C9- HF; 3B7A
Walt AJ6T	6m: EA, CT, ZF, CO

Announcements

John Morris K4XH became a silent key this week. He was a charter member of the North Alabama DX Club and was a very active DXer. He and his wife, Nancy K4JD, moved from Huntsville to Birmingham in 2012 in order to be closer to family. The club members voted to purchase an ARRL Diamond Terrace brick in John K4XH's memory.

The digital copy of QST magazine has arrived, and Bob K8KI has an article on transceiver audio specifications in it.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,823.99
Credits	
Dues Payments	\$ 30.08
Banquet Tickets	\$ 258.20
N4KG Estate Sales	\$ 275.00
N4KG Memorial	\$ 45.00
Debits (none)	
Ending Balance	\$ 5,432.27

The treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

Membership Applications

None.

Old Business

N4KG's inside gear is mostly sold, but the outside gear of antennas and towers remain. Tom's sister, Ruth Velasquez, is in town again, and a yard sale of the antenna materials will be held on Saturday (June 16) at 9:30 a.m. Towers and plentiful supplies of aluminum tubing will be available and it is hoped that these materials will find homes rather than being thrown away.

The North Alabama DX Club honor roll plaques have been refurbished and are on display tonight. Thank you to Chuck N4NM for his work on this project.

More thanks go to John N5DF and Bob K8KI for working on Tom N4KG's equipment and for getting it sold. Warren K4MMW has the few remaining pieces and will work on selling those. If there are any leftovers by the Hamfest time in August, they will be offered for sale then.

The Hamfest Banquet is going to be great. We have a great speaker and a great main prize lined up, as well as a great, new venue close to the VBC. Get your tickets!

New Business

Dayton Hamvention update: there was rain. The traffic was excellent, the food was great, and the flea market was in a gravel lot not in mud. Yaesu and Kenwood introduced two new rigs.

Mark N4BCD gave a report on the Dallas TX Hamfest. Bob Allphin K4UEE gave a program on the Bouvet Island (almost) DXpedition. The Bouvet folks have offered some refund options for donations that were not used. The club members voted to let our donation roll to another DXpedition via a foundation.

Meeting adjourned for the program.

Banquet Tickets

Tickets are selling now! Bring your cash, checks, or debit/credit cards to the meeting on Tuesday. As soon as you have paid for tickets, they will be marked with your call sign and will be saved for you (or you can take them with you). I can't "reserve" tickets without a payment.

I am looking for some help with the banquet this year. I need one or two people to set up a welcome table and hand out tickets at the Springhill Suites.

Kelley W4VPZ

June Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,432.27
Credits	
Banquet Tickets	\$ 922.04
N4KG Estate Sales	\$ 1,297.50
K4XH Memorial	\$ 20.00
Debits	
Hamfest Table	\$ 35.00
Secretary of State Name Reservation	\$ 28.00
DXCC Honor Roll Plaques	\$ 155.31
Ending Balance	\$ 7,453.50